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## (54) Decorative blocks

(57) A decorative building block (2) for use in the construction of a decorative wall has an effective length (L) and an effective height (H) which are each

substantially the same or substantially an integral number of times the effective length and effective height respectively of a standard brick (1), i.e. they exceed the length (height) by the thickness of the mortar joint.

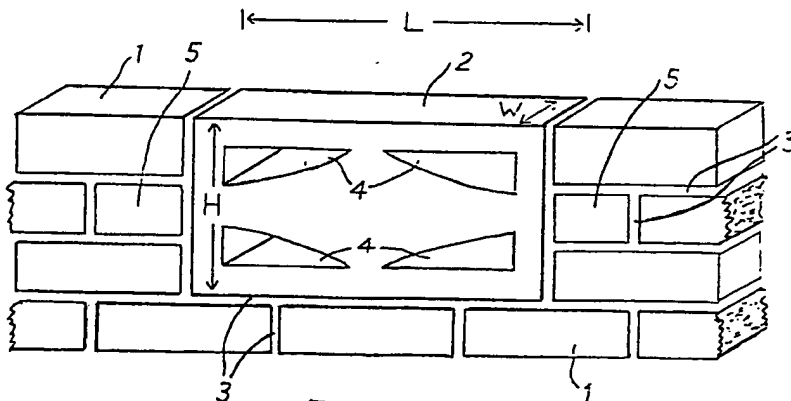
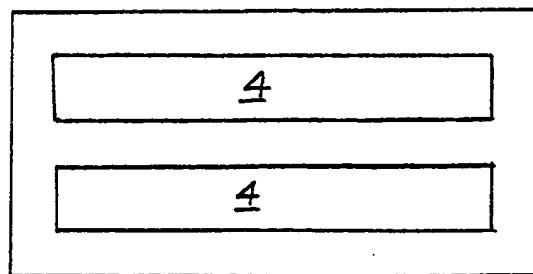
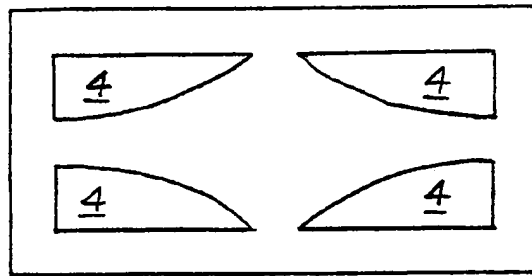
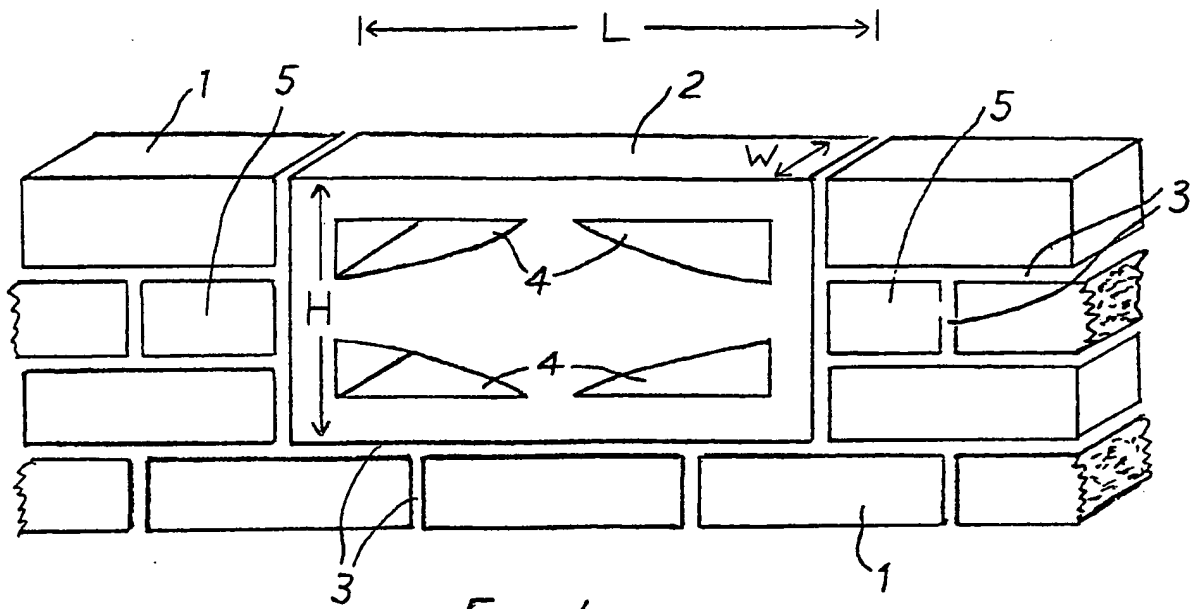


FIG. 1.

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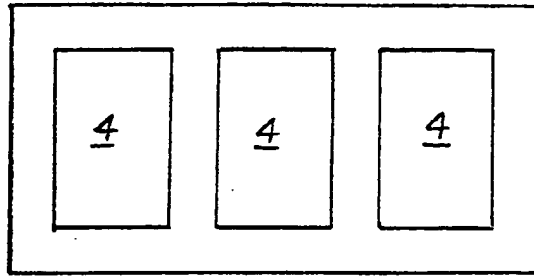


FIG. 4.

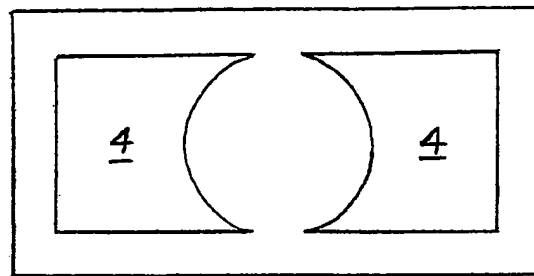


FIG. 5.

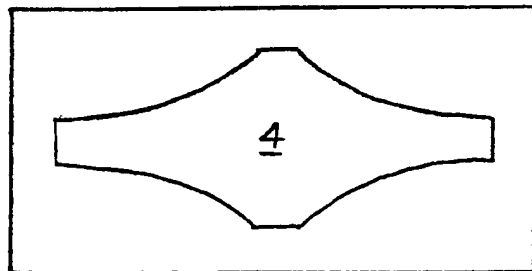


FIG. 6.

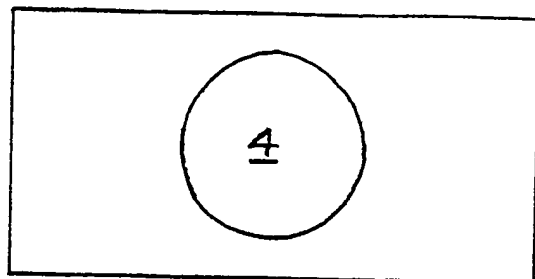


FIG. 7

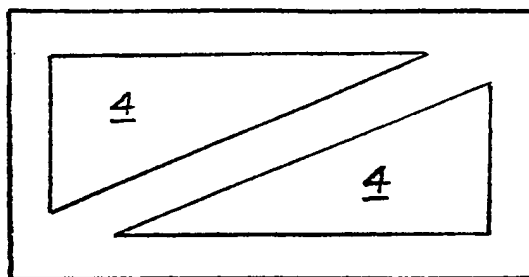


FIG. 8.

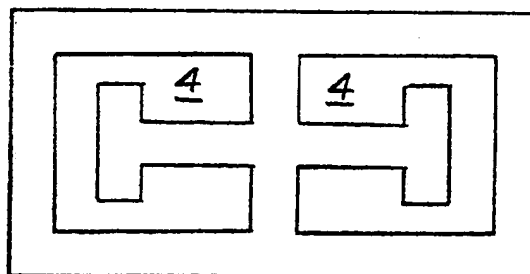


FIG. 9

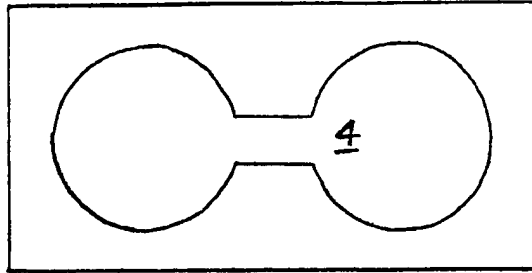


FIG. 10.

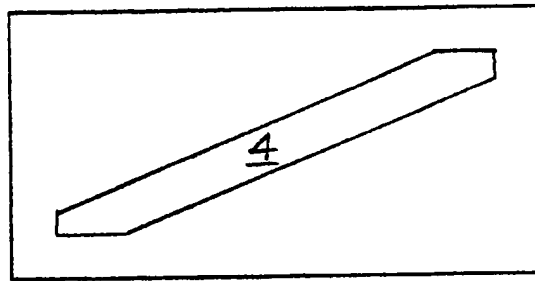


FIG. 11

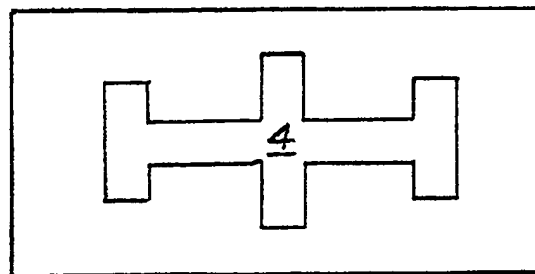


FIG. 12.

## SPECIFICATION Decorative blocks

- This invention relates to decorative building blocks, in particular blocks for use in the construction of a screen wall or any decorative wall structure. One particular use of such a decorative screen wall is as a garden wall. 5
- In various situations it is desirable to construct a wall made up of standard bricks with decorative blocks interposed in the pattern of bricks. The decorative blocks are provided to improve the appearance of the wall.
- According to the invention a decorative building block for use in the construction of a decorative wall has an effective length and an effective height which are each substantially the same as or substantially an integral number of times the effective length and effective height respectively of a standard brick. 10
- It will be understood that in the construction of a wall a layer of mortar, typically one half inch or so thick, is provided between adjacent bricks. The "effective" length or height of a brick or a building block is defined as the dimension of the brick together with its associated mortar layer. 15
- Using a decorative building block sized in accordance with the invention makes the blocks extremely easy and quick to incorporate in a wall of bricks and enables the decorative blocks to blend with the surrounding brickwork. The only cutting of bricks required is the standard cutting of bricks into half. None of the building material is wasted.
- Preferably the width of the block is the same as the width of a standard brick. This ensures that a wall made up partly of bricks and partly of the blocks is of uniform thickness with no unsightly lip to disturb the overall appearance of the wall. 20
- In the past decorative building blocks have been used on many occasions but they have not been sized to match standard bricks so that the bricks at each side of the blocks have to be cut away and the block does not blend well with the bricks. 25
- The matching of the size of the decorative blocks to a standard brick also improves the weight distribution on the blocks so that they can bear a greater load and provide a more stable structure.
- The decorative blocks may have a decorative relief or sculptured pattern applied on one or both side faces. Preferably the relief pattern consists of apertures passing through the block from one side to the other; this arrangement provides a particularly pleasing appearance when the blocks are installed in a wall. 30
- The blocks may be made of concrete or other building materials including the various aggregate materials used in the industry.
- According to another aspect of the invention a decorative screen wall includes a plurality of standard bricks and a plurality of decorative building blocks each being as defined above. 35
- By way of example certain illustrative embodiments of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:
- Figure 1 is a perspective view of part of a decorative screen wall;  
Figure 2 is a front view of a block shown in the wall of Figure 1; and  
Figure 3 to 12 are front views of alternative forms of block to the form shown in Figure 2. 40
- Referring first to Figure 1 a decorative screen wall is made up of standard bricks 1 and a decorative wall block 2. The bricks 1 and block 2 are joined by mortar 3 in the normal way.
- The decorative screen wall block 2 is made from concrete and has apertures 4 passing right through the block from the front to the back. As shown in Figures 1 and 2 the apertures are of part curved triangular cross-section. 45
- The bricks shown in Figure 1 are standard and therefore have a width of about 4 inches, a length of about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches and a height of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. The mortar 3 is of conventional thickness, namely about one half inch.
- The block 2 has a width "W" of about 4 inches, a height "H" of about  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches and a length "L" of about  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Thus the width of the block (4 inches) is the same as the width of the bricks (4 inches), the effective length of the block (18 inches) is about twice the effective length (9 inches) of the bricks and the effective height of the block (12 inches) is about four times the effective height of the bricks (3 inches). Accordingly the block can be fitted very neatly into the brickwork, and in the example shown in Figure 1, it is merely necessary to cut two bricks (indicated by reference numeral 5) in half to fit the block 2. 50
- Apart from the size of block shown in Figure 1, various other sizes of block in which the effective length and effective height are each the same or an integral number of times the effective length and effective height respectively of a standard brick may be used. Examples of some suitable sizes for the block are given below in Table I where all dimensions are given in inches. 55

